

Zibung



BOROUGH OF BOSTON
and
BOSTON
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
For the Year 1955

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR E. A. ARNOLD, J.P.,
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A.

1st Additional Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :

S. DAVEY, M.S.I.A.

(Resigned November, 1955)

2nd Additional Sanitary Inspector :

G. FOX, M.S.I.A.

3rd Additional Sanitary Inspector :

H. GREGORY

(Appointed April, 1955)

Chief Clerk :

D. DADY

BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Borough and on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1955.

* From a perusal of the Report it will be seen that health conditions continue to give cause for satisfaction. The vital statistics on the whole compare favourably with those given for England and Wales, and apart from epidemics of Chicken Pox and Measles there has been nothing unusual in the incidence of infectious diseases.

The erection of new houses continues to be maintained at a satisfactory rate and a vigorous slum clearance programme is in progress in accordance with the requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Additional work has fallen to the department owing to increased meat inspection duties and the slum clearance programme. In the coming year further duties will be caused by the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which set up higher standards of hygiene in all food premises. These standards are compulsory and include structural alterations and regulations affecting personal hygiene. The regulations aim at producing a higher standard of food and reducing the incidence of food borne diseases.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation and courtesy shown to me by the Mayor and Members of the Council, and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. E. Chamberlain, and all other officials of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SMEATON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

Part I

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

GENERAL STATISTICS:—

Area (in acres)	3,259
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1955)	24,300
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1955 (according to the Rate Books)	7,895
Rateable Value at 1st December, 1955	£148,188
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£573
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House	3.1
Estimated average number of Persons per Acre	7.4
Average number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	2.4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.:—

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS:—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)	15.6
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)	15.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	18.1
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	10.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted) ...	10.1
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) ...	2.6
Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:—	
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	29.0
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	30.7
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

(a) All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	21.1
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	22.3
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :—

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for mid-1955 was 24,300, a decrease of 120 on the figure given for the previous year which was 24,420. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 125.

BIRTHS :—

A total of 379 live births (194 males, 185 females) were registered during 1955. The resultant crude birth rate of 15.6 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate of 15.3 show a marked decrease on the corresponding rates for 1954 which were 17.7 and 17.3 respectively. The rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1955 was 15.0.

The number of illegitimate live births was 21 (12 males, 9 females) which is 5.5% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1954 was 34.

STILLBIRTHS :—

There were 7 stillbirths registered (2 males, 5 females) giving a stillbirth rate of 18.1 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, as compared with 13.7 in 1954. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 23.1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

There was one death under this heading in 1955, the resulting death rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths being 2.6.

INFANT MORTALITY :—

There were 11 deaths of infants under one year of age (6 males, 5 females), the resulting death rate per 1,000 live births being 29.0 as compared with 30.1 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9.

The total number of infant deaths under 4 weeks of age was 8 (5 males, 3 females), giving a death rate of 21.1 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 23.1 in 1954.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough was 254. The resulting crude death rate of 10.4 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate of 10.1 show a slight decrease on the corresponding rates for the previous year which were 10.6 and 10.3 respectively.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1955 was 11.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOSTON M.B., 1955.

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	9
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	30	23
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
20.	Other heart disease	5	18

No.	Cause of Death		Males	Females
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	...	9	2
22.	Influenza ...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	2	6
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	8	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	—	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	5	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations ...	...	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	14	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents ...	...	4	1
35.	Suicide ...	...	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	...	—	—
ALL CAUSES				127
				127

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following summary of the weather conditions of the area for the past two years as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston.

	1955	1954
Days of measurable rain ...	154	197
Mean Maximum temperature (normal 56.7°)	56.0°	55.6°
Mean minimum temperature (normal 42.1°)	41.5°	42.1°
Mean day and night temperature (normal 49.4°)	48.7°	48.8°
Mean humidity at 0900 hrs. G.M.T. ...	84%	86%
No. of days with temperatures 70° to 79°	58	31
No. of days with temperatures 80° or over	9	1
No. of ground frosts ...	91	85
No. of days of snow or sleet ...	37	24
No. of days of fog (at 0900 hrs. G.M.T.)	11	12
No. of days of thunderstorms ...	9	17
No. of days with winds reaching gale force	12	18

Total rainfall 20.86" against average of 24.18". Deficiency of 3.32".

Time of instrumental and visual observations 9 a.m. each morning, 10 a.m. during British Summer Time.

Averages—temperatures and rainfall at Boston Station from 1939 to 1952.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS :—Except for April the first six months of the year were exceptionally wet and cold. February was very wintry with much snow and severe frost, 23 deg. of frost on one night. 14.07 inches of rain fell up to the end of June. In contrast the fall was only 6.79 inches for the last six months. July, August and September were brilliantly fine and warm, and the closing months of the year were outstanding (certainly for this district) in the fact that the weather has, in general, been bright with much sunshine in contrast to the overcast, dull, foggy and wet conditions which usually prevail.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for examination and further details of this work will be found in Sections C and E.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :—

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department, Allan House, Carlton Road.

Four first line ambulances, including one of the most modern type, and five sitting case cars are based in the Borough. In addition an ambulance is reserved solely for the conveyance of infectious cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME :—

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

PUBLIC MORTUARY:—

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS:—

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows:—

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital — Orthopædic and Acute General.

Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, Boston — Physiotherapy.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES:—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

The Chest Clinic, Venereal Diseases Clinic and Orthopædic Clinic are held at the London Road Hospital.

Clinics are held at the Health Centre, London Road, for Ophthalmic, Dental, Minor Ailments, Speech Therapy and Child Guidance.

The Cleansing Station continues to function at the Health Centre, and further details with regard to the arrangements for the treatment of Scabies will be found in Section F of this Report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47. — REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION:—

There were two cases in which action was considered necessary during the year :—

Case No. 1 :

This concerned an aged female who was living alone and was found to be suffering from Cerebral Arteriosclerosis. She was unable to care for herself, and was receiving insufficient care and attention from other persons. An order was made under the

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, for her immediate removal to Part III accommodation for a period of three weeks. She died shortly after the order had been renewed for a further three months.

Case No. 2 :

In this case it became necessary to arrange for the immediate removal of an aged female living alone in insanitary conditions, and who was unable to devote to herself and was in need of proper care and attention. She was removed to Part III accommodation for a period of three weeks in accordance with the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. The order was subsequently renewed for a further three months but she died during this period.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :—

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, these services are provided by the Holland County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :—

(A) **Rainfall.** The rainfall recorded at Revesby Waterworks during the year was 23.37" (of which only 7.45" fell in the months of July to December) as against 29.76" in 1954, but deducting evaporation the run-off was only 6.54" in 1955 (indicative of the exceptionally fine summer and autumn) against an average of 14.10". Rainfall at Fordington was 25.12" compared with 30.20" in 1954.

(B) **Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington and received in bulk from Boston R.D.C. with comparisons for 1954.**

Year.	Thousands of gallons.					average G.P.D.
	Revesby.	Fordington.	from Boston R.D.C.	Total.		
1955	219,522	233,089	123,887	576,498	1,580	
1954	262,134	180,418	54,568	497,120	1,362	
Increase +						
Decrease—	-42,612	+52,671	+69,319	+79,378	+218	

(C) Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington in bulk to the Rural District Councils of Horncastle and Spilsby with comparisons for 1954.

Year.	Thousands of gallons.				Average G.P.D.
	Horneastle.	Spilsby.	Total.		
1955	32,737	26,186	58,923		161
1954	32,142	15,493	47,635		130
Increase +					
Decrease—	+ 595	+ 10,693	+ 11,288		+ 31

During the exceptionally fine summer and autumn these supplies could not have been maintained were it not for the additional water obtained in bulk from the mains of the Boston R.D.C.

The average gallons per day supplied within the Corporation's Statutory Area amount to 1,419,000 or 47 gallons per head per day for all purposes, including waste.

It is estimated that the domestic consumption equates to approximately 30 gallons per head per day.

As a matter of interest, the average daily consumption in 1939 was 674,000 gallons.

A waste detection scheme is in operation for the whole Statutory Area of Supply.

(D) Pressures.

Pressures in the town have definitely improved and further improvements will be noticeable when the new 15" trunk main from Revesby to Frithville is brought into commission. Consumers generally, are always encouraged to install the maximum amount of storage possible. The availability of additional water in bulk from the mains of the Boston R.D.C. enabled the Corporation to avoid restricting the supply.

(E) Extensions of Mains.

As will be seen from the list of main extensions and renewals, activity continues in the Water Department. A large number of new services have been connected, and a considerable amount of internal work undertaken by local plumbers, all to the benefit of public health. Modernisation of the distribution system continues and special attention is always directed to housing needs in the Borough and Rural Districts, and rural water main extensions to meet agricultural requirements within the Council's Statutory Area of Supply.

WATER MAINS LAID IN BOROUGH DURING 1955.

Location.	Dia. & type of pipe.	Length. yds.	Remarks.
1. Woad Farm Housing Site			
	$1\frac{1}{2}$ " A.C.	90	
	3" A.C.	400	
	4" A.C.	2,140	Site development
	4" C.I.	120	
	6" A.C.	110	
2. Rosebery Avenue/Langrick Road Link	4" A.C.	260	Circuit between Sleaford Road and Langrick Road.
3. South Forty Foot Bank, under Railway and through Black Sluice Depot Grounds to South Parade			
	6" A.C.	355	Circuit between Wyberton West Road, South Parade and Sleaford Road.
4. Hurle Crescent (Carlton Road Housing Site)	4" A.C.	65	Two dead ends removed.
5. Spilsby Road/Linden Way	4" A.C.	200	Part of future link main between Spilsby Road and Linden Way.
6. Elmwood Avenue (off Bayswood Avenue and Wyberton Low Road)	4" A.C.	160	Site development.
		<hr/> 3,900	<hr/> $=2.21$ miles

Renewals

1. Willoughby Road	4" C.I.	50	Replaces old 3"
2. Hospital Lane	4" C.I.	330	Replaces old 2"
3. Sleaford Road	4" C.I.	510	Replaces old $1\frac{1}{2}$ " / 2"
Woodville Road Playing Field Cut Drain Bridge to Borough Boundary	4" C.I.	1,200	
	4" A.C.	220	Replaces old 2"
4. South Parade	6" A.C.	200	Replaces old $1\frac{1}{2}$ " / 2" and gives im-
	6" C.I.	270	proved fire protec-tion.
5. Burgess Row off Freiston Road	3" A.C.	80	Replaces old $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
		<hr/> 2,865	<hr/> $=1.63$ miles.

EXTENSIONS IN RURAL AREA 1955

1. Boston R.D.C. Housing site off Woodtherpe Avenue, Meridian Road—Fishtoft	4" A.C.	720	Site development.
2. Red Cap Lane—Fishtoft	3" A.C.	200	Agricultural Extension.
3. Stonebridge Drain West (North of Hales Bridge)	3" A.C.	570	Agricultural Extension.
		<hr/> 1,490	<hr/> $=0.85$ mile.
15" Trunk Main—Revesby to Frithville (Between Revesby and Moorhouses).			$=3$ miles.

(F) Quality of Water.

- (1)a The water supply of the area has been, in my opinion, satisfactory throughout the year.
- (1)b The quantity of water available has been satisfactory although anxious moments were experienced towards the end of the year.
- (2) Monthly samples of the raw water and treated water passing to supply at Revesby and Fordington are submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological analysis. No adverse report has been received. Copies of all reports are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, who in turn supplies me with copies of reports received in respect of samples taken from the town mains at frequent intervals. It is hoped that one day iron removal and softening plant will be installed at Fordington. The long overdue scheme of cleaning out the Miningsby Beck feeding the Revesby Reservoir has been successfully completed and other improvements undertaken at the Reservoir.
- (3) The water has no plumbob-solvent action. No form of contamination detected.
- (4) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small and mainly confined to old parts of the town.

1% of the approx. 7,000 houses are without a piped water supply. For the purpose of this report, standpipes and yard taps are treated as piped supplies.

D. H. BALL,

Borough Water Engineer.

24th February, 1956.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—

- (a) Further extensions to sewers on Woad Farm Housing Site.
- (b) Routine maintenance and sewer cleansing carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :—

A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained. Controlled tipping is carried on at the old Golf Course. A further $24\frac{1}{2}$ acres have been reclaimed during the year. Salvage collections of waste paper continue to be maintained at satisfactory levels.

Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1955, were :—

	£
Collection	£15,903
Disposal	£2,885
	<u>18,788</u>
Less income from salvage, trade refuse, etc.	6,065
	<u>Net cost £12,723</u>
Weight per 1,000 of population	25.5 cwts.
Net cost per ton	22/4d.

SWIMMING BATHS :—

At frequent intervals throughout the season samples of water were submitted for analysis. In all 49 samples were taken and with 5 exceptions the water proved to be of a fairly satisfactory quality. As a temporary expedient, during a heavy bathing season, mains water was substituted for river water. The initial advantages, however, were rather offset by the difficulties in obtaining sufficient changes of water.

Needless to say the swimming baths still remain as unsatisfactory as ever owing to the completely outmoded system of water purification and the unsuitable nature of the river water. Only by heavy chlorination is a serious menace to health prevented, but even then the arrangements fall so short of modern standards that in the absence of major improvements the present situation ought not to continue much longer. The only satisfactory remedy is the installation of a modern continuous filtration chlorination plant.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :—

(a) Rodent Control :—

It was found in the early part of the year that the two Pests Officers were not being fully employed and in May the Assistant Pests Officer was dismissed. Since then the one officer, with temporary assistance for sewer treatments, has proved adequate although he is very fully employed.

There have been no major infestations during the year and the refuse tip and dock area, two of the likeliest breeding grounds have been kept practically free of rats.

The following table gives comparative figures of the work done by the Pests Officers during the last three years.

Year.	No. of premises treated.	No. of bodies recovered.
1953	968	448
1954	1051	427
1955	651	380

(b) **Verminous Houses :—**

The number of premises treated for vermin is as follows :—

Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cockroaches, Ants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :—

The following information has been supplied by Mr. G. E. Chamberlain, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also responsible for the preparation of the remainder of this section, Section D and much of Section E.

For the first quarter of the year a disproportionate amount of time had to be spent on meat inspection but this was partly rectified by the appointment on the 1st April of a third additional sanitary inspector. Even after this appointment a considerable amount of overtime was still involved and in an effort to provide more time for other work the Council resolved in August that no meat inspection would be carried out outside normal office hours. This arrangement was given a fair trial but proved unsatisfactory both for the majority of butchers, who wanted their meat to be inspected, and for the sanitary inspectors who knew that the job was not being properly carried out.

In November, Mr. S. Davey, the first additional sanitary inspector resigned, having obtained a post at Folkestone, and the opportunity was taken to appoint a specialist meat and food inspector, one of the conditions of the appointment being that a considerable amount of the work would be carried out outside normal office hours. The officer appointed, Mr. J. F. Aspinall did not commence duty until 1st February, 1956 but it appears that this arrangement will prove much more satisfactory.

In spite of considerable efforts to devote as much time as possible to work other than meat inspection, it has not been possible to do as much of this as is considered desirable and routine inspections of food premises, factories, etc., has declined. The effects of this will not be immediately apparent but it is most undesirable that this state of affairs should continue.

INSPECTIONS:—

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	314
Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936			511
			—825

Re-inspections.

Under the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	443
Under the Public Health Act, 1936			385
			—828
Overcrowding	...	...	123
Smoke Observations	...	...	13
Offensive Trades	...	...	11
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	1
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	71
Butchers' Shops	...	...	49
Prepared Food Premises	...	...	36
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	12
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	9
Bakehouses	...	...	59
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	6
Food Shops and Premises	...	...	84
Market Stalls	...	...	80
Food Poisoning Investigations	...	...	10
Food Poisoning Revisits	...	...	101
Dysentery Investigations	...	...	13
Dysentery Revisits	...	...	45
Dairies	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses	...	...	3360
Rat Infestation	...	...	17
Port Sanitary—Vessels Inspected	...	...	85
Pet Animals Act Inspections	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases	...	...	44
Miscellaneous	...	...	136
			—
TOTAL			6,025

Samples Taken.

Water

Public Supply	...	...	...	...	...	82
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	49
Other	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—133
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	39
Iced Lollies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mussels	...	...	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	2

Drains and Sewers.

Drains Tested ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Drains Cleared ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sewers Cleared ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	376

OFFICE WORK:—

Informal Notices.	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936 ...	82	45
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	51	39
Dustbin ...	49	64
Statutory Notices.	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9 ...	8	2
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	41	22
Dustbin ...	Nil	2
Conversions ...	5	8

PREMISES DISINFECTED:—

Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:—

Total number of complaints received ...	...	...	...	608
The following are details of complaints received and remedied:—				
Defective Dustbins ...	...	...	...	3
General Housing Complaints ...	...	...	...	81
Defective W.C.'s ...	...	...	...	15
Fleas, beetles, etc. ...	...	...	...	23
Ants ...	...	...	...	7
Wasps' nests ...	...	...	...	6
Rats and Mice ...	...	...	...	163
Choked drains and sewers ...	...	...	...	247
Flooded cellars ...	...	...	...	2
Smoke nuisance ...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	33
Defective yard and passage paving ...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools ...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	17

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :—

Factories ...	...	...	...	3
Premises used for Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	1
Stables ...	...	...	...	1
Crewyards ...	...	...	...	1
Pigs and Chickens ...	...	...	...	2
Waste Land ...	...	...	...	1
Ditches ...	...	...	...	3

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR :—

Defect	No. found	No. Remedied	
		(a) Informally	(b) By Statutory Action
Roofs	62	18	1
Chimneys	20	12	—
Pointing of external walls	11	4	—
Brickwork	4	3	1
Gutters and down pipes	33	17	1
Boundary walls or fences	4	5	—
Wall plaster	34	14	1
Ceiling plaster	21	12	3
Doors and door frames	21	5	—
Windows and window frames	30	12	2
Sash cords	21	2	—
Floors (solid)	4	1	—
Floor boards	12	5	1
Skirtings	2	1	—
Firegrates or ranges	21	12	1
Treads and risers	2	—	1
W.C. roofs	8	5	—
W.C. walls	5	4	1
W.C. doors and door frames	9	3	1
W.C. pans	13	4	8
W.C. flushing cisterns	19	5	9
W.C. flushing pipes	14	3	9
W.C. water service pipes	3	4	—
Yard and passage paving	10	4	6
Drains	9	7	—
Sewers	4	—	2
Dustbins	49	64	2
Water supply	10	3	5
Sinks	9	3	5
Sink waste pipes	11	4	5
Yard gullies	9	5	—
Cesspools	1	—	—
Rainwater cisterns	2	2	—

Other Items

WATER :—

Weekly samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 10 samples were analysed chemically. On two occasions unsatisfactory bacteriological results were obtained but the cause of these could not be traced and the supply was rapidly rectified by the Water Engineer.

As reported elsewhere there has been a continued improvement in the volume and pressure of water in the mains but improvements in the supply to individual houses has not proceeded at the same rate. It is hoped that when the full number of sanitary inspectors is again available that this position can be improved.

The following table classifies the results of the samples examined bacteriologically.

Class I	Class II	Class III (suspicious)	Class IV (unsatisfactory)
58	3	6	4

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—

There is only one registered common lodging house and this is permanently full. The building is very old and the structure is deteriorating while the standard of cleanliness is not high. Steps have been taken to improve both the state of repair and the cleanliness.

FACTORIES :—

The following tables give particulars of the visits made to factories during 1955. The number of defects found was small and in no case was it necessary to resort to statutory action to remedy the defects.

Inspections.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	96	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	Nil	Nil
Total ..	113	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :						
(a) Insufficient	2	2	Nil	2	Nil	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	1	Nil	
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total	7	7	Nil	3	Nil	

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES:—

There are only two registered outworkers in the Borough and both are employed by firms in London, one making hairnets and one wearing apparel. The premises are satisfactory.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of Houses erected in the Borough during the year:—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	31	16	Nil
(b) By the Council	94	4	Nil

Number under construction at the end of 1955 :—

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(a) By private enterprise ...	25	4	Nil
(b) By the Council	94	Nil	Nil

REPAIR AND DEMOLITION :—

(1)	Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action ...	... ... ...	127
(2) (a)	Number of houses repaired as a result of the service of notices under section 9, Housing Act, 1936	... ... ...	2
(b)	Number of houses repaired as a result of the service of notices under the Public Health Act, 1936	... ... ...	16
(3) (a)	Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ...	13
(b)	Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	... ...	4
(c)	Number of houses in respect of which closing orders under section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 were made	... ... ...	3

SLUM CLEARANCE

During the year compulsory purchase orders in respect of 14 properties in Mill Hill and 18 houses in Reform Place were confirmed. The rehousing of families from the Goodbarn's Yard clearance area was completed except for one family and the remaining families in the Lincoln Lane area were rehoused. The rate of rehousing in areas subject to compulsory purchase has been considerably delayed owing to the prolonged legal negotiations.

In August slum clearance proposals were submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government which envisaged the demolition of 670 houses in a period of nineteen years. Subsequently, at the request of the Minister, the period of the programme was reduced to nine years.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :—

The inspection of meat has occupied the major portion of the sanitary inspectors' time. Apart from the actual time spent on inspection, the fact that 11 premises have to be visited plus the difficulty of knowing exactly when the meat will be ready for inspection, makes it a service which wastes a great deal of time

and there is no doubt that even when four inspectors are available, other work is receiving less than its proper share of attention. The appointment of a specialist meat and food inspector has somewhat alleviated the position but owing to his inability to be in two places at once, it is still necessary for the other inspectors to spend an appreciable amount of time on meat inspection.

Working conditions in some of the slaughterhouses are bad both for the slaughtermen and for the meat inspectors and it is to be hoped that when the new regulations governing standards of construction and hygiene are published that it will be possible to enforce a considerable improvement in these respects.

The following tables give details of the numbers of carcases inspected and the amount of meat condemned.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ..	3784	1356	695	9319	34751	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcases condemned	8	34	21	38	200	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	504		12	118	1286	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.6		4.7	1.7	4.3	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	12	58	3	1	11	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	704		1	—	1628	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.0		.6	.01	4.7	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	29	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—

Meat Destroyed

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Carcases whole with offal	137	39	211	387
Forequarters	34	Nil	7	41
Hindquarters	4	1	4	9
Plucks	Nil	18	659	677
Heads and Tongues ..	438	2	1490	1930
Livers	614	64	385	1063
Lungs	448	Nil	955	1403
Intestines	54	Nil	184	238
Miscellaneous	231	47	325	603
Meat	3cwt.	Nil	40lbs.	3cwt.
	54lbs.			94lbs.

MILK AND OTHER FOODS :—

It has not been possible to devote as much time as is considered desirable to the inspection of food premises but visits have been made as frequently as possible, particular attention being paid to those places where the standard is known to be low. Particulars as to the numbers of premises inspected appear in Section C.

ACTION UNDER REGULATION 20, MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 :—

During April a report was received from the County Sanitary Officer that a sample of milk from a producer in the Borough had given a positive reaction to a biological test for tubercle bacilli. A notice was served under regulation 20 and remained in force until the 8th June when it was withdrawn following the receipt of a satisfactory report from the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The service of the notice did not interrupt the sale of the milk as it was possible immediately to make arrangements with a local dairy for the pasteurisation of the milk.

FOOD POISONING :—

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in the Borough during the year. Twenty sporadic cases involving nine families were notified and all were later confirmed. In no case was it possible to recover any samples of the suspected foods for examination, but from samples of faeces the infecting agents were revealed as *Salmonella Anatum*, *Salmonella Typhi-murium* and *Salmonella Saint Paul*.

BYE-LAWS UNDER SECTION 15, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 :—

The enforcement of the bye-laws has not created any difficulties, such breaches as have been observed being dealt with by verbal or written warnings.

ICE-CREAM :—

During the year four more premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, but none for the manufacture. The majority of these sell only wrapped ice cream and as far as possible the sale of unwrapped ice cream is discouraged.

The results of samples submitted for bacteriological examination are given in the following table :—

Samples examined by the Methylene Blue Test.

Number of samples submitted	40
Number of samples classified Grade I	28
Number of samples classified Grade II	3
Number of samples classified Grade III	3
Number of samples classified Grade IV	6

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Table I shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Chicken Pox :—This was again the most common notifiable condition which occurred in the Borough and approximately 80% of the 462 cases reported were notified during the period January—June. The number of cases notified in 1954 was 248.

Measles :—An increase in the incidence of this disease resulted in 277 cases being notified as compared with 47 in the previous year. The majority of the cases (209) were notified during the first quarter.

Pneumonia :—A total of 45 notifications were received as compared with 21 in 1954. 14 cases were admitted to hospital and there were two resultant deaths.

Scarlet Fever :—38 cases were notified during the year, 8 of which were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. This figure shows a slight increase on that for the previous year when 26 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough :—A marked decrease in the incidence of this distressing complaint was recorded and only 25 cases were notified. This figure is considerably lower than that for 1954, namely 117, and compares very favourably with those recorded in previous years.

Acute Poliomyelitis :—2 cases were notified and both patients were admitted to hospital, but the diagnosis in each case was eventually not confirmed.

Scabies :—14 cases were notified as compared with 2 in 1954. Treatment in one instance was provided by the patient's own doctor, whilst the remaining cases were treated at the Cleansing Station.

If necessary, the Holland County Council undertakes the treatment of cases of Scabies occurring in the Borough, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Corporation. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

Table I.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1955

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis :				.
Paralytic	1	Nil	1	Nil
Non-paralytic	1	Nil	1	Nil
Chicken Pox	462	462	2	Nil
Dysentery	12	12	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	2	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning ..	20	20	Nil	Nil
Measles	277	277	4	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	45	45	14	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	10	9	Nil
Scabies	14	14	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	38	38	8	Nil
Whooping Cough ..	25	25	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS :—

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

Table II.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
5—15	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Total	8	8	3	3	1	1	—	1

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

All arrangements in connection with immunisation within the Borough are under the control of the Holland County Council.

The following figures, supplied by the County Health Department, give details of the number of immunisations carried out during the year.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
5—14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
							359
Number of Booster Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	354

The percentage of children immunised in relation to the child population is as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	19.6%
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	78.4%
5—14 years	...	...	...	...	...	78.9%

The response to immunisation has been reasonably satisfactory but again the public are reminded that full advantage should be taken of these services.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

PART II

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Year ended 31st December, 1955.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,
being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by
the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1955. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health, and a recapitulation of all the information has been made for the year under review.

The Port has again enjoyed a very satisfactory trading year, the number of vessels entering the Dock increasing from 992 in 1954 to 1,002 in 1955. The character of the trade of the Port varied only slightly from that of previous years and there has been little change in the principal foreign ports from which ships arrived.

There has again been a complete absence of infectious diseases, and in this respect I am satisfied that present arrangements are adequate to deal effectively with any outbreak that may occur.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SMEATON,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

February, 1956.

SECTION I—Staff

TABLE A

Name of officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
SMEATON, W. G.	Port Medical Officer of Health	1-7-50	M.B., Ch.B.. D.P.H. Barrister-at-Law.	Assistant C.M.O.— Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health—Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health—Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G. E.	Chief Port Health Inspector	15-10-45	Cert. S.I.B.. Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Sanitary Inspector Borough of Boston.
DAVEY, S.	Additional Port Health Inspector	12-2-51 (Resigned 30-11-55)	Cert. S.I.B.. Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.	Additional Sanitary Inspector—Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.

} Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.
BOSTON 2639.

SECTION II—Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	623	144,370	14	59	Nil
Coastwise	379	73,372	Nil	17	Nil
Total	1,002	217,742	14	76	Nil

SECTION III—Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ..	Number of passengers INWARDS : 95. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 82.
CARGO TRAFFIC ..	<p>Principal IMPORTS : Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Coal, Deals, Feeding Stuffs, Fertilizers, Flour, Fruit and Vegetables, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Sleepers, Steel Bars, etc., Sugar Beet Seed, Telegraph Poles and Waggon Bottoms.</p> <p>Principal EXPORTS : Baled Straw, Bren-Gun Carriers, Coal, Feeding Stuffs, Grain, Pig Iron, Spent Oxide and General</p>
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ..	<p>BALEARIC ISLANDS : Palma.</p> <p>BELGIUM : Antwerp, Ghent, Terneuzen, Zeebrugge.</p> <p>CYPRUS : Famagusta.</p> <p>DENMARK : Fredericia, Nykobing.</p> <p>EGYPT : Alexandria.</p> <p>FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Kasko, Kotka, Mantyluoto, Pateniemi, Rafso, Vietsiluoto, Walkom.</p> <p>FRANCE : Bordeaux, Duclair, St. Valery.</p> <p>GERMANY : Bremen, Emden, Hamburg, Kiel, Rostock, Wismar.</p> <p>HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Hansweert, Harlingen, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Wormerveer.</p> <p>NORWAY : Arendal, Hommelvik, Porsgrunn, Skien.</p> <p>POLAND : Gdansk, Stettin.</p> <p>PORTUGAL : Lisbon.</p> <p>RUSSIA : Archangel, Igarka, Kem, Leningrad.</p> <p>SARDINIA : Cagliari.</p> <p>SPAIN : Almeria, Burriana, Gandia, Valencia.</p> <p>SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Hudiksvall, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Karlstad, Kopmanholmen, Kristinehamn, Oskarshamn, Sundsvall.</p>

SECTION IV—Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V—Water Supply

1. Source of supply for

- (a) **The District.**
- (b) **Shipping.**

The supply for both (a) and (b) is obtained from the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

Frequent bacteriological examinations of the water are carried out and all the reports have been satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

SECTION VI—Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

The Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs are each supplied with a list of infected areas which is amended as necessary from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

The Pilot Boarding Station, 5 miles from the Port in the Wash, is connected by radio telephone with the Dock Master's Office and information of vessels requiring special attention is transmitted by the pilots. The Medical Officer is immediately informed by telephone and the vessel can be sent to the Quarantine Station to await the Medical Officer.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

- (a) **Within the Docks :** The vacant berth in Boston Dock.
- (b) **Outside the Docks :** The Quarantine Station—"Clay Hole."

5. Arrangements for :—

- (a) **Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox—see Section VII) :**

Such accommodation is available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

- (b) **Surveillance and follow up of contacts :**

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed postcards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

- (c) **Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :**

The cleansing and disinfection of ships is carried out by the Port Health Authority's staff under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

Clothing, bedding and other portable articles are dealt with at the disinfecting station.

Arrangements have been made for the cleansing of verminous persons at the Health Centre, London Road.

SECTION VII—Smallpox

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J. H. C. Clarke, County Offices, Sleaford.	Dr. G. Nisbet, Bridge Street, Peterborough.	Dr. J. Glen, Springfield Hospital, Scarthoe, Grimsby.
--	---	--

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A. W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, School of Hygiene, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII—Venereal Disease

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient clinics are conducted at London Road Hospital, Boston, at 4.30 p.m. each Tuesday. If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient treatment can be arranged by the Grimsby Hospital Management Committee.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

SECTION IX—Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1955.

SECTION X—Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI—Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1955.

SECTION XII—Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

I. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester 10.

During the year no ships were found to be infested with rats.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons	7
Ships from 301—1,000 tons	8
Ships from 1,001—3,000 tons ..	Nil
Total	15

SECTION XIII—Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G
Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction	68	Nil	Nil
Structural Defects through wear and tear	71	Nil	2 repairs carried out 1 sailed before completion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health	91	Nil	6 complied with.
Total ..	91	Nil	8 complied with.

SECTION XIV—Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1955, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SECTION XV—Medical Inspection of Aliens

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

SECTION XVI—Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

